

Town Board Minutes
February 11, 2008

At a Regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 11th day of February 2008, 7:30 PM, at the Town Hall, the following were present:

Supervisor JoAnn Trinkle
Councilwoman Carol Imhof
Councilmen: Joel Nichols, Frank Ziehm, Ted Berndt

Others present: Town Clerk Sally Eddy, Highway Supt. Eric Shaw, Bookkeeper Margaret Shaw, Code Enforcement Officer LaVerne Davis, Meaghan Wilkins, Lou Imhof, Robert McIntosh, Dan Schmitt, Evan Lawrence

Supervisor Trinkle called the meeting to order and immediately led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Councilwoman Carol Imhof motioned, seconded by Councilman Joel Nichols, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the January 14, 2008 meeting and approve them as mailed by the Town Clerk with one correction. Under Excavator Bids, the vote should be corrected to read 4 Ayes and 1 No.

Vote: 5 – Ayes 0 – Noes

Items to be Added to Agenda

Under New Business – Time Warner Cable Internet

Supervisor's Report

1. The monthly general and highway financial reports were reviewed and commented upon. Bookkeeper Margaret Shaw also prepared a fourth quarter budget report
Councilman Nichols motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Imhof, to approve all submitted financial reports.
Vote: 5 – Ayes 0 – Noes
2. Supervisor Trinkle stated the polling site for District 2 has been temporarily moved to the highway garage due to the closing of the Woodcock Estates facility. District 2 voting had previously been held there. The February 5 primary election was held in the garage. The election inspectors were comfortable and only a few negative comments were heard from the public. Supervisor Trinkle has contacted New Life Church on South Union St. to find out if they have available space the town could rent as a polling site. They do not. Councilman Berndt suggested the store front at Scott Smith's on West Main Street be looked into.
In a related matter, Supervisor Trinkle stated that as a result of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) the county will be purchasing new electronic voting machines for the towns. They are scheduled to be in place sometime in 2009.
3. Met with insurance agent Dick Look to review the town's insurance policies. The two voting machines were removed since they are now owned by the county. The recently purchased excavator and trailer were added for a total increase of \$14.00.
4. On Thursday, Feb. 7, the Town Board met with the Planning Board to openly review and discuss the Comprehensive Plan.

No Town Board Report

Town Clerk Report

1. On Thursday, Feb 14, Lori Thompson, a representative from Business Automation Systems, will install the town clerk's computer program.
2. The DECALS (Department of Environmental Conservation Automated Licensing System) Program will be converted to an internet based system by March 31, 2008. The current DEC Computer is not compatible with the new system so DEC will furnish a new computer to all licensing agents who need one. DEC has made arrangements to ship the old computer back to them.
Town Clerk Sally Eddy expressed concern over the unavailability of high speed internet and wondered how

smooth the license issuing procedure will go with dial up service. Will there be interruptions?

Highway Superintendent Report

1. We did regular maintenance on the trucks and equipment. We had to have a mechanic come in to repair an electrical problem with the 2003 Sterling.
2. Brush was cut this month when weather permitted.
3. Since our last meeting we've had a number of storms and quite a lot of material had to be used due to icing. We have used 3,200 yards of sand and 557 tons of salt since the onset of winter.
4. During the month of January we consumed 867.3 gallons of diesel fuel.

No Code Enforcement Report

Communications

1. Received a thank you note from the Cambridge Valley Senior Citizens for the \$750 support given to their organization.
2. Received a acknowledgement from the Cambridge Valley Rescue Squad for the \$5,000 support the town contributed to the organization.
3. Supervisor Trinkle received an e-mail from the Governor's Office highlighting the NY State proposed budget. The town will gain about 3.7% in Revenue Sharing which amounts to \$240. However, CHIPS funding will be cut by about \$4,000. In another matter, the state will no longer fund MS4 storm water mandates.

Unfinished Business

Councilman Ziehm asked how the information discussed at the joint Town Board and Planning Board meeting on February 7 will get to the Comprehensive Plan Committee? Supervisor Trinkle responded she will contact Steve Sanford with what she has and Secretary Sally Eddy will also furnish information. Councilman Ziehm added that he thought that the biggest item of discussion was over the limited number of lots that can be divided from the larger parcels of land.

Councilman Nichols remarked that getting a consensus between the Committee and Town Board, Planning Board and public will be the goal.

Councilwoman Imhof stated she was encouraged with the job the Planning Board is doing as she witnessed how they handled a subdivision at the joint meeting. She expressed she would like to see a minimum lot size, but that cannot be accomplished without zoning.

Code Enforcement Officer LaVerne Davis said that a minimum lot size of one acre is needed to meet the distance specifications between well and septic.

Robert McIntosh remarked that since Frank Ziehm's farm has been involved in the purchase of development rights (PDR) through the ASA (Agricultural Stewardship Program) he could help be an advocate by talking to people about the program. Mr. Ziehm stated the final decision comes down to individual choice.

Dan Schmitt expressed he thought the Plan decreases development rights.

Several people at the joint meeting expressed that non prime agricultural land should be allowed to be developed. Supervisor Trinkle stated she felt the same way.

Robert McIntosh suggested that the town pursue a purchase of development rights program to help farmers have an income from the land without having to subdivide to provide cash. One way to pay for the program would be to raise taxes even though it would be unpopular. It's unfair for residents to want the town to stay agricultural and rural without them contributing something toward it.

New Business

1. The Town Clerk's cash book and the Clerk to the Supervisor's books were presented for annual audit by the Town Board. The Board signed off on both
2. Supervisor Trinkle stated Peter Taubkin, a representative from Time Warner Cable, will be present at the March meeting regarding the renewal of the franchise contract with the town. He will be asked about extending the cable into the town because interest for high speed internet is being continually expressed by residents.

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3. Councilman Ted Berndt offered to head up a committee to investigate the various options available to residents for high speed internet. Dan Schmitt agreed to join the committee. Other suggested names were Cliff DeCarlo and Dick Battistoni.
4. The town's Procurement Policy and Investment Policy will be reviewed at the March meeting

No one spoke at privilege of the floor.

County Report

Supervisor Trinkle remarked, regarding Governor Spitzer's budget, that the county highway department will lose as much as the town. The Governor says he's saving money. In essence, the cost is just being shifted to local government.

The following bills were presented for audit and approved for payment:

General #14 – 36 \$13,984.73

Highway #12 – 27 \$ 7,932.68

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Beelen Eddy
Town Clerk